



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE ("LRC")
Meeting Action Report

Committee: Transportation

Members: City Representative Ann Lilly (Chair)
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Beto O'Rourke
City Representative Steve Ortega

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2011

- I. Presentation, discussion and action regarding staff's public outreach efforts on the consolidation and pricing of loading zones, parking spaces, and metered parking.

Summary:

This item was taken out of order due to the large number of members of the public signed up to speak on this topic.

Per previous Council direction, the El Paso Department of Transportation staff studied parking and loading zones in five study areas and conducted public outreach. Staff presented general strategies for the loading zones, parking meters and reserved parking, which includes consolidation, elimination, no free parking, conversion of free parking to metered parking, charging annual fees for reserved parking and congestion pricing. Entities that could be impacted include federal (Mexican Consulate and federal courthouse staff), county (sheriff's office and County staff) and city (police, fire, health, library, museum Sun Metro) staff, news media, Downtown businesses, the Chamber of Commerce and residences. Staff recommended parking remain free and reserved around the jail due to safety concerns regarding the loading and unloading of prisoners.

An additional presentation was made by the International Bridges Department regarding parking meter options for this area, and noting how many additional parking meters could be added and different options available for parking meter use.

The LRC clarified that the goal is not to install parking meters to generate revenue but to provide parking where the demand exceeds supply. The problem to be addressed is to maximize parking to provide access to Downtown businesses and facilities. The LRC also thought that staff's recommendations were too general and that the recommendation(s) need to be tailored to the specific area. For example, free parking may be warranted in certain areas such as when we want to encourage foot traffic and business activity.

Action Taken:

The LRC provided staff with the following guidelines for determining whether to charge, eliminate or consolidate parking spaces and loading zones:

1. Address a parking management problem to provide parking where needed, even if parking is free. Long term parking should utilize parking garages or parking lots. Street parking is for turnover or short term use. Excess revenues should be reinvested in the area for pedestrian amenities.
2. General or "blanket" recommendations will not work and recommendations must be "block by block". Parking policy must be consistent with the neighborhood use. Look at resident parking and how it is accommodated in the downtown area to include options for free or reduced cost parking.
3. Employee parking for the Mexican Consulate, federal, county and city staff should not be free. All City controlled parking should be assessed a fee except when safety and security concerns justify the need for free parking.
4. Consolidate loading zones.
5. Parking meters should be upgraded to digital meters and allow for variable pricing. Meters should not be upgraded if the meters do not generate enough revenue to cover the operating cost.

Disposition:

The LRC voted unanimously to present the guidelines to the full Council on May 3, 2011 for review. No further action will be taken by staff until direction is provided by the full Council.

- II. Presentation, discussion and action on developing a tool to measure the City's progress in reducing dependence on automobile travel and on setting a goal using that measure.

Summary:

As a follow-up to the April 12, 2011 Mass Transit Board meeting, Jay Banasiak recommended that performance goals could be developed by utilizing the following performance indicators:

- Ridership per fixed route
- Ridership per express route
- Ridership per circulator route.

The performance indicators can be further analyzed by corridor, peak periods, mid-day and special events. Further, Sun Metro could participate in the National Household Travel Survey.

Action Taken:

The LRC directed staff to develop performance goals based on the aforementioned performance indicators.

Disposition:

The LRC unanimously directed Sun Metro to present the above indicators at the April 26, 2011 Special Mass Transit Meeting.

- III. Update from Victor Morrison-Vega on the sidewalks in Alamitos, Tays St., where driveways were installed and interrupted the flow of traffic for this complex.

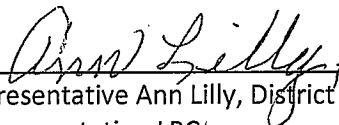
Discussion and action on making El Paso a more walkable City.

Presentation, discussion and action regarding any potential conflict with the City's transportation strategic goals of being the lowest car dependent city in the Southwest and mitigating traffic congestion.


Action Taken/Disposition:

These items were postponed for discussion and action to the May 5, 2011 LRC meeting.

SUBMITTED BY:



City Representative Ann Lilly, District 1
Chair, Transportation LRC



Jane Shang, Deputy City Manager
City Manager – Mobility Services